



Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!
Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Dutch Caribbean art in the last century

Etnia Nativa offers—in situ—a unique native experience opportunity that fuses education and entertainment, challenging you to interact with our exclusive team while accessing an interesting private property made with repurposed materials sorted by our concept developer. Meet a top columnist, avocational archaeologist, native artist, and island's cultural expert. Choose to dive at the core of your travel destination through the navel of Aruba!

In this episode, Etnia Nativa shares a bit regarding "Dutch" Caribbean art in the 20 century.

It is obvious that we cannot mention all those who participated and contributed with their love, passion, and talent in our Dutch Caribbean expressionism that was always marked by exuberance, rebellion, impulses, and feelings related to the temperament of the artist, but in this episode we chose three of them: Hubbert "Lio" Booi, Johannes Pandellis, and Theo Van Delft. Since their early Dutch Caribbean expressionistic point of view and miscegenation combines realism and surrealism, alternating abstraction and figuration, a particular style began emerging in the mid-1940s.

The diverse shared roots made that Caribbean art adapted constantly to change. However, Aruba's indigenous heritage and patrimonial legacy kept its strong aesthetic values.

Hubert "Lio" Booi, born in Bonaire (*1919-+2014) but resident in Aruba since 1937, has shown his appreciation for our island through all possible means, including art, music, and literature. Lio has dedicated his life to Aruba and its culture, immortalizing the iconic lime kiln of Oranjestad in one of his paintings. "Lio" Booi

is also the co-author of the Aruba National Anthem.

European artists, professionals, and amateurs traveled to all the islands of the Caribbean, some of them establishing and inaugurating local art related to the academy and styles of their European academies from the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Expressionism was a way of affirming identity. In short, the expressionism that, devoid of taboos and impositions, permeated the Netherlands Antilles, permeated an important sector of Anglophone art (English-speaking countries)—in particular Jamaica and Barbados—and reached the Francophones: Guadeloupe, Martinique, and Haiti—and flourished in 1950 in Spanish-speaking countries such as Santo Domingo and Puerto Rico, and a decade later it arrived in Cuba as an ideological and aesthetic manifestation of shock. Dutch Caribbean Art Development (Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles) in the former colonies in the beginning of the 20th century: painters in Aruba also worked according to the traditional, European academic style.

The Greek artist Johannes Pandellis (1896–1965), who lived in Suriname and Curacao during the years of the First World War, later came to Aruba

Episode CCLXXVII - 277



and was one of the first artists to work and teach on our island, leaving a legacy of beloved students and works highly valued by collectors.

Another painter was Theodorus Josephus van Delft, alias Theo van Delft Jansz (1914–2005), who lived in Curaçao and Aruba for a while and also enjoyed painting rustic landscapes of the islands. In 1960, Amigo de Curaçao newspaper dedicated a column to Theo van Delft: "It must have been about ten years ago that Theo from Delft came to Curaçao, coming from a family of painters himself, and was offered a position as a teacher. Theo van Delft knew that what had started as an orientation trip could well become a permanent situation and thus began his life in Curaçao," leaving behind beautiful works for the next generations to enjoy.

The original paintings shows in this episode are "Lime Kiln in Oranjestad," painted by Hubert "Lio" Booi. "Schooner haven Oranjestad," painted by Pandellis, and "Aruban countryside," by Theo van Delft Jansz, are part of the private collection of Etnia Nativa, on permanent display.



If you liked our native stories and are interested in diving deeper into learning the true identity of Aruba, a visit to Etnia Nativa would be a fantastic choice. We have been a trendsetting entity since 1994, as a co-founder of projects such as Arikok National Park, the Archaeological Museum, and the Artisan Foundation, among others. Every week, this newspaper shares our valuable knowledge. Don't miss the opportunity to feel the island's spirit through our real stories that are not just remembered; they resonate, they're felt, and they stir souls to the bone. Book your visit: WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etnianativa03@gmail.com